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VPI/03-152 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Group Art Unit: 1614
Applicants: Kevin M. Cottrell, et al.
Serial No.: 10/821,663
Filing Date: April 09, 2004
For: INHIBITORS OF SERINE PROTEASES,
PARTICULARLY HCV NS3-NS4A PROTEASE

Cambridge, Massachusetts
August 31, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.115

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits and prior to any fee calculations, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

REMARKS

Claims 16, 19, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, 33, 35, 40, 42, 44, 47, 50, 55, and 63 have been amended to change the multiple dependency of the originally filed claims to single dependency. Additionally, claim 26 has been further amended to correct an inadvertent error. Specifically, the term "formula I, the" after the term "wherein the" has been removed.

None of these amendments add any new matter.

Applicants respectfully request that the Director consider the foregoing remarks and enter the indicated amendments prior to any fee calculations and prior to substantive examination of this application.

It is believed that there are no fees associated with this amendment; however, if Applicants are mistaken, the Director is authorized to charge any fees (or credit any overpayments) to Deposit Account Number: 50-0725, reference number VPI/03-152 US.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael C. Badia".

Michael C. Badia
Reg. No. 51,424
Agent for Applicants

Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-4242
Tel.: (617)444-6467
Fax.: (617)444-6483